



Monday Morning Report

April 25, 2016

INTERNAL

Due to heavy rain and flooding in the area and cancellations of speakers, the State of Central Texas Luncheon & Mayor's Discussion Event was cancelled and will be rescheduled. Again, we apologize for the inconvenience and will notify you immediately when a date set.

The Executive Committee of the **Austin-San Antonio** Corridor Council met last Wednesday (4/20) in **San Marcos** for project status updates, a review of recent meetings on Lone Star Rail with TxDOT, the Capital Area and the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and took action on the Council's 403(b) plan. Agenda [here](#).

Join us June 1 at the **San Antonio** Plaza Club for a luncheon & discussion with Congressman Henry Cuellar and the Department of Transportation Commissioner Jeff Austin on "The Future of South Texas Transportation: **San Antonio to Monterrey High Speed Rail**". Details [here](#).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Given all the flack in the air following Union Pacific's withdrawal from a memorandum of agreement to study use of their rail line by Lone Star Rail between **Austin** and **San Antonio**, you may want to read Lone Star chairman Sid Covington's plan for a path forward [here](#). Here are other links to news reports of the Rail District's plans moving forward, [KENS](#), [SA Current](#) and [WOAI](#).

Hays County appointed a program director to stage a bond election for a new county jail, law and communications center. Consultants say they need 500-600 beds to meet anticipated demand and currently Hays spends \$1 million housing inmates in **Bastrop, Caldwell, and Guadalupe Counties**. More as this develops. [Story](#).

Some people are predicting a major new shift in power during the next Texas Legislative session in **Austin** on how the budget is adopted: the Senate will seize control, they say, for a zero-based system that will enhance Gov. Abbott's role in the process. [Story](#).

Kevin Patteson, a former administrator for the Texas Water Development Board in **Austin**, will take over as the chief executive of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority from Bill West - who has run the agency since 1994. [Story](#).

A water pipeline along US 290 may be doing more harm than good, according to scientists studying water usage in **Hays County**. "That pipeline's causing massive growth on top of an aquifer recharge zone in [**San Marcos, Wimberley, and Dripping Springs**]," an official says. [More](#).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (and 'Other' News)

The **Rivard Report** has come up with a characteristically cool and innovative idea for what-to-do-with trash left over from Fiesta Week in **San Antonio**: turn it into an art project. They're promising to raise money over the next year for 'Fiesta Litter of San Antonio' exhibits. We're all in. [More](#).

CPS Energy thought they had a deal with former CEO Doyle Beneby to return, but he's-in, he's out has worn thin with the board of directors and mayor Ivy Taylor of **San Antonio** says the community is moving on. Beneby's compensation package sank the potential return, according to CPS leadership. [Story](#).

Women-owned businesses in **San Antonio** doubled over the last decade, making it tied at Number 4 for such gender-specific growth with **Las Vegas** in the US, according to a recent study. This all coincides with Alamo City Chamber of Commerce recognition of local women in business. [Details](#).

SAVE the Date: Friday, June 10th HNTB and WTS **San Antonio** will host a Connected and Autonomous Vehicles Seminar. Details are forthcoming.

Thought of the Week

"If we are facing in the right direction, all we have to do is keep on walking.

~ Buddhist Saying